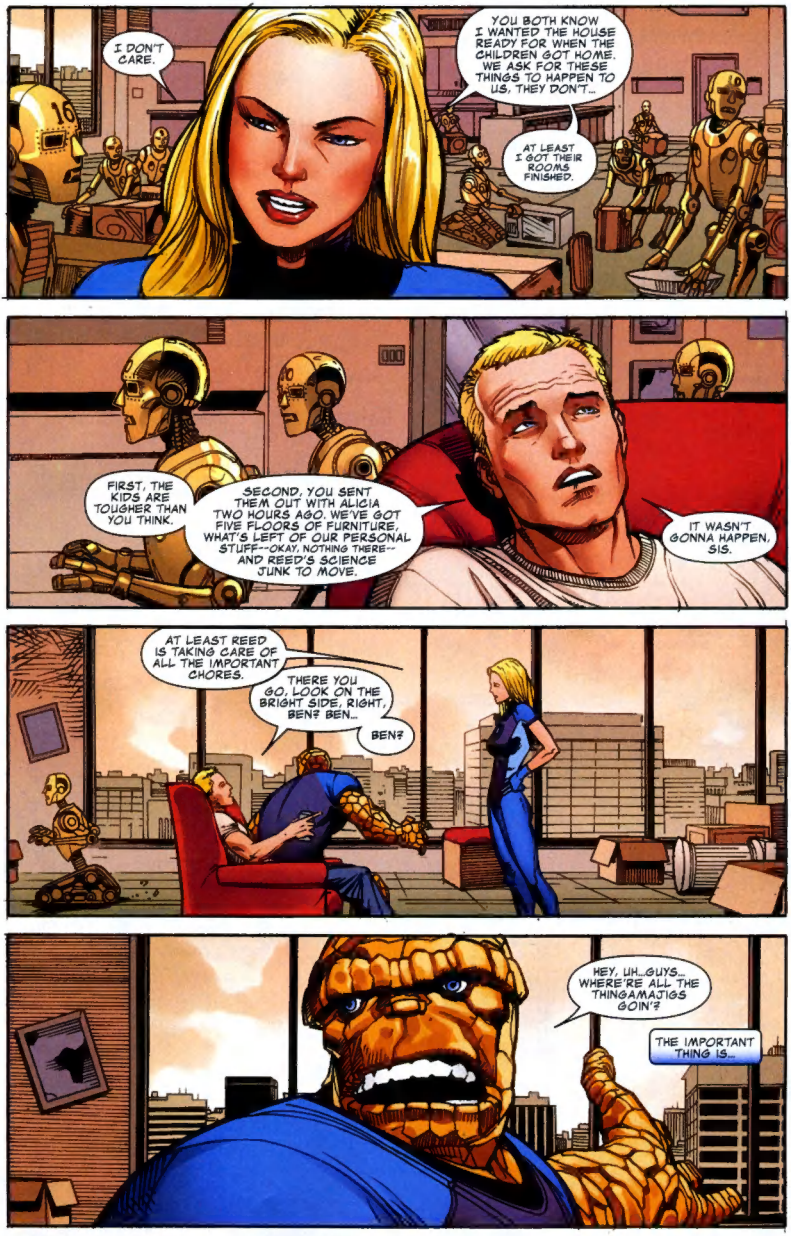
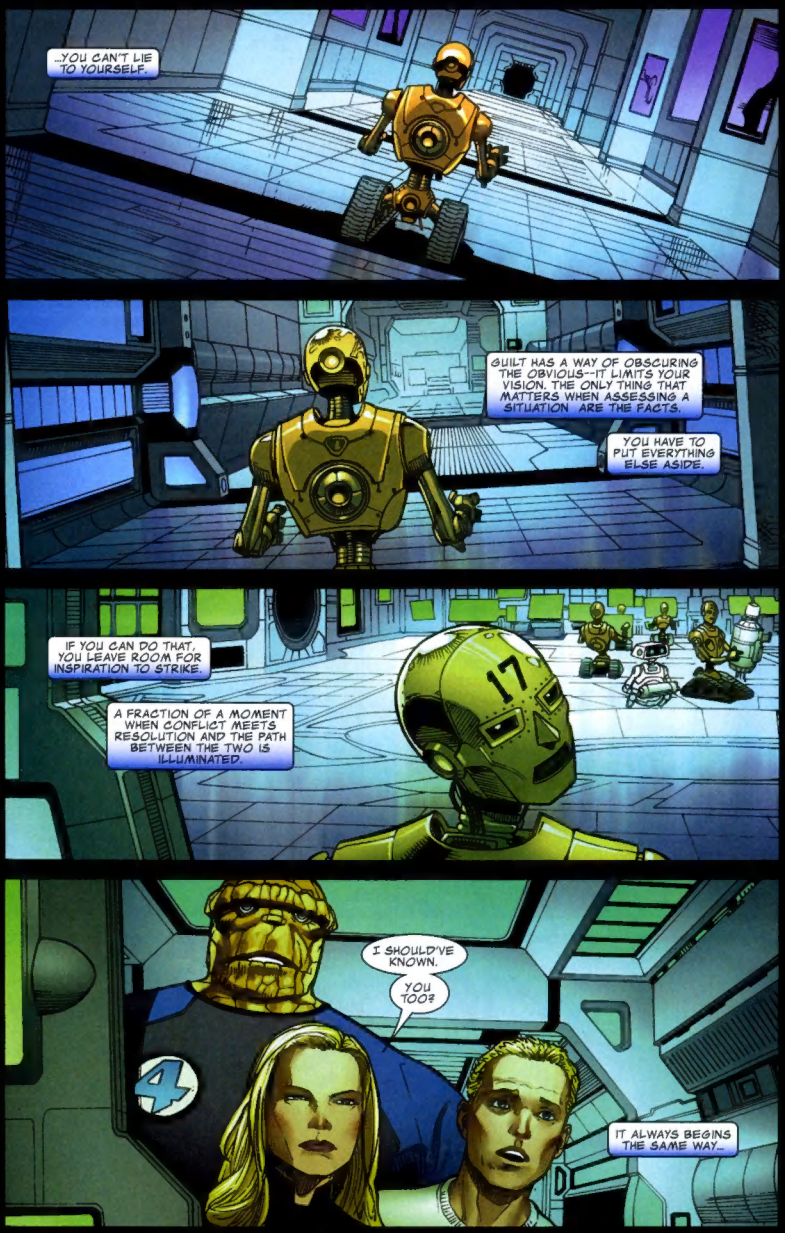
NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! YOU KEEP RIGHT ON MOVIN'!
I DUNNO, BEN...
I DON'T THINK I'M BEING OVERLY MATERIALISTIC... I DON'T.
BUT REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH WE DON'T WANT TO BE LABELED BY THESE THINGS, THEY DO. IN FACT, SAY SOMETHING ABOUT WHO WE ARE AS A PERSON.
IT DOESN'T GO THERE, EITHER!
I'M NOT SAYING I'M ANY LESS OF A PERSON, OF COURSE I'M NOT.
BUT IF YOU TOOK AWAY THE RACE CAR FROM A FORMULA ONE DRIVER, IS HE STILL A RACE CAR DRIVER?
AWWW, THAT'S NOT GONNA FIT IN...
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT AND IT SCARES ME.
...HUH, WHADDAYA KNOW?
MAYBE I CAN'T EVER RETURN TO BEING THAT GUY. MAYBE I WON'T EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.
WHAT ARE YOU BLABBERIN' ABOUT?
I'M A MAN WITHOUT A MISSION, BEN. A PERFORMER WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE...

...WE'RE GETTING ALL THIS COOL NEW SWAG, AND ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS HOW I LOST THE PHONE NUMBER FOR EVERY SINGLE, HOT, AND NEEDY WOMAN IN THE CITY.
WELL, HERE'S TA STARTIN' OVER, KIDDO.
:SIGH:
UNBELIEVABLE.
JOHNNY STORM! BEN GRIMM! WHY ARE THE TWO OF YOU SITTING AROUND WHEN THIS ISN'T FINISHED YET?
AWWW, SUZIE, C'MON-- LIGHTEN UP.
THE DOOMBOTS ARE DOING A BETTER JOB THAN WE WOULD, AND BESIDES, THE KID'S GOT ISSUES.
IT'S TRUE. I'M A BIT DOWN AND YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND. I DON'T TELL YOU THAT ENOUGH.
SEE WHAT I'M SAYIN'?


I DON'T CARE.
YOU BOTH KNOW I WANTED THE HOUSE READY FOR WHEN THE CHILDREN GOT HOME. WE ASK FOR THESE THINGS TO HAPPEN TO US, THEY DON'T...
AT LEAST I GOT THEIR ROOMS FINISHED.
FIRST, THE KIDS ARE TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK.
SECOND, YOU SENT THEM OUT WITH ALICIA TWO HOURS AGO. WE'VE GOT FIVE FLOORS OF FURNITURE, WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR PERSONAL STUFF--OKAY, NOTHING THERE-- AND REED'S SCIENCE JUNK TO MOVE.
IT WASN'T GONNA HAPPEN, SIS.
AT LEAST REED IS TAKING CARE OF ALL THE IMPORTANT CHORES.
THERE YOU GO. LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, RIGHT, BEN? BEN...
BEN?
HEY, UH...GUYS... WHERE'RE ALL THE THINGAMAJIGS GOIN'?
THE IMPORTANT THING IS...


...YOU CAN'T LIE TO YOURSELF.
GUILT HAS A WAY OF OBSCURING THE OBVIOUS--IT LIMITS YOUR VISION. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS WHEN ASSESSING A SITUATION ARE THE FACTS.
YOU HAVE TO PUT EVERYTHING ELSE ASIDE.
IF YOU CAN DO THAT, YOU LEAVE ROOM FOR INSPIRATION TO STRIKE.
A FRACTION OF A MOMENT WHEN CONFLICT MEETS RESOLUTION AND THE PATH BETWEEN THE TWO IS ILLUMINATED.
17
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN.
YOU TOO?
4
IT ALWAYS BEGINS THE SAME WAY...

I HAD AN IDEA.
REED!
I KNOW, I'M SORRY. I HAD THE BEST OF INTENTIONS.
I MADE A LIST.
SEE, I WAS GOING TO FINISH THE NEW HOME SECURITY PROGRAM AND BRING IT ONLINE, I DID ACTUALLY RE-PURPOSE A COUPLE OF HERBIES INTO A HOVER HORSE FOR FRANKLIN...
AND, WELL, THE LIST HAS TWENTY-SEVEN OTHER ITEMS ON IT...BUT THEN I HAD AN IDEA.
I BUILT A TWO-POINT SINGULARITY POWER SOURCE TO DRIVE THE UNCERTAINTY ENGINE I'VE BEEN WORKING ON, AND THEN I CREATED A VARIABLE IMAGER TO ACCURATELY INTERPRET THE DATA FROM ALTERNATE REALI...
HERE WE GO.
DOES ANYBODY BESIDES ME EVER GET TIRED OF FEELING LIKE THE DUMB KID IN SCIENCE CLASS?
JOHNNY.
YEAH?
WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT YOUR GRADES.
IT'S ACTUALLY AN OBSERVATION DEVICE TO SEE HOW PROBLEMS LIKE OURS WERE SOLVED ON OTHER EARTHS.
NOT SMALL, IS IT?
BIG PLANS, BEN. BIG MACHINE.

THIS IS THE BRIDGE.
DARK REIGN
FANTASTIC 4
ON-SALE IN MARCH

OH, CRAP.